



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**

1595 Wynkoop Street
DENVER, CO 80202-1129
Phone 800-227-8917
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

Ref: EPR-RA

Honorable John Hickenlooper
Office of the Governor
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203-1792

RE: State Representatives to the Regional
Response Team

Dear Governor Hickenlooper,

We are writing to request your reaffirmation of Colorado representation on the Regional Response Team (RRT), which is co-chaired by EPA and the US Coast Guard. The RRT is comprised of environmental experts from 15 federal departments/agencies and state and local representatives who are responsible for emergency response contingency planning in the event of a major spill of oil or other hazardous substance. Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming are the states represented on the Region 8 RRT. It has been several years since these states made their last designations so we want to ensure representation is current.

Each year, our environment and communities are threatened by more than 30,000 hazardous substance releases, oil discharges and other toxic spills such as radiological and biological incidents. The National Response System (NRS), coordinated at the regional level by the RRT, ensures that these threats are effectively managed through its network of people, plans and resources. The goal of the NRS is to protect public health and safety and the environment from potential and actual pollution incidents in a coordinated, efficient and effective manner.

During an incident, the RRT provides technical expertise to the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC). As noted by section 300.115(h) of the National Contingency Plan regulations:

“Affected states are encouraged to participate actively in all RRT activities. Each state governor is requested to assign an office or agency to represent the state on the appropriate RRT; to designate representatives to work with the RRT in developing Regional Contingency Plans; to plan for, make available and coordinate state resources; and to serve as the contact point for coordination of response with local government agencies, whether or not represented on the RRT. The state’s RRT representative should keep the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), described in § 300.205(d), apprised of RRT activities and coordinate RRT activities with the SERC. Local

governments are invited to participate in activities on the appropriate RRT as provided by state law or as arranged by the state's representative."

Currently Colorado is represented on the RRT by:

Greg Stasinos, Deputy Director
Office of Emergency Preparedness & Response
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)

and

Dave Hard, Director
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Office of Emergency Management, Colorado Department of Public Safety

Historically, OEM and CDPHE's participation on the RRT has worked well and contributed to program success. Given the statutory authority and regulatory activities each performs, your current representatives have ample knowledge, understanding and ability to assist during a hazardous substance or oil spill incident. Ongoing participation in the RRT will provide opportunities to address interagency issues, foster collaboration, and support your state during planning and response activities. We thank you for your consideration of this matter and look forward to your affirmation and/or redesignation of Colorado representatives and their participation in the RRT. Please have your staff contact contact David Ostrander, EPA Region 8 Emergency Response and Preparedness Program Director at 303-312-6827 or ostrander.david@epa.gov if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Shaun McGrath
Regional Administrator

cc: Dr. Larry Wolk, Executive Director, CDPHE
Karin McGowan, Deputy Director, CDPHE
Martha Rudolph, Director of Environmental Health Programs, CDPHE
Gary Baughman, Hazardous Materials & Waste Mgmt Division Director, CDPHE
Lyle Moore, OEPR Director, CDPHE
David Ostrander, EPA Emergency Response & Preparedness
Michael Sams, US Coast Guard, 8th District

